

BAGBAB BAGBAS

Limpopo Provincial Government official Newsletter

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April-June 2020

LIQUOR CONSUMPTION SWELLS CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

By Emmanuel Sekokotla



ince the beginning of June, crimes related to liquor consumptions have increased in the province. Liquor related crimes and Gender Based Violence which were very low during level 5 and 4 lockdown have skyrocketed. This is according to the Provincial **Command Council** team.

The command council led by Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha monitored compliance of lockdown regulations at Seshego and surrounding areas on 3oth June 2020.The Premier was

accompanied by the Members of the Executive Council.

Premier Stanley Mathabatha said there is a need to review and strengthen regulations around consumption and sale of alcohol in the country as it is the main source of crime. "On the first night of June when alcohol sale was permitted under level 3 regulation, 65 casualty cases related to alcohol consumption were reported at hospitals around the province."

The Premier furthermore condemned the murder of a 31-year-old woman from

Namakgale who was discovered by a passer-by between Combretum flats and Impala Park Stadium in Phalaborwa.

Mathabatha said the rise of GBV cases in the province during level 3 lockdown is a serious concern. "We encourage men in the province to desist from the barbaric behaviour of killing our women," he said.

Acting Provincial
Police Commissioner,
Major Gen Jan
Scheepers said the
province has seen an
upsurge in crime
since sale of alcohol
was permitted. "Due
to opening of liquor
sales, number of
crimes reported in the

province have increased. Liquor consumption is causing people to disobey lockdown regulations."

Major Gen Scheepers said alcohol consumption has also resulted in an increase in the number of Gender Based Violence (GBV) crimes.

According to Major Gen Scheepers, Seshego is a GBV epicentre in the province. Major Gen Scheepers further warned communities to desist from hosting soccer tournaments and attacking police when they carry out lockdown regulations.

Premier has encouraged communities to become activists against coronavirus as the province intensify efforts to curb the spread.

We encourage men in the province to desist from the barbaric behaviour of killing our women



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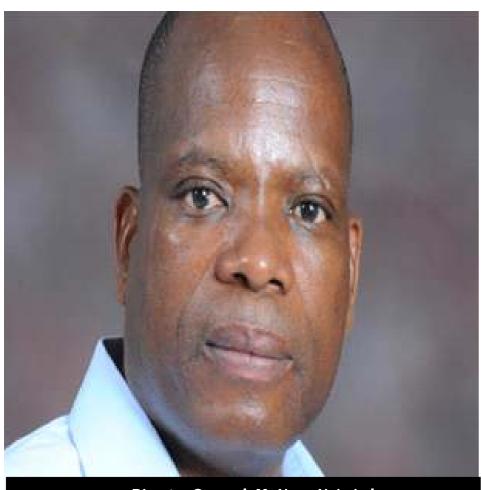


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DIRECTOR-GENERAL REMARKS DURING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 16TH OF JUNE 1976, HOSTED BY OFFICE OF THE PREMIER, LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION



Director General: Mr Nape Nchabeleng

wish to express a warm gratitude to you for attending this important session to reflect on matters related to youth development in the Office of the Premier in particular, and the Limpopo Province in general. This is part of an ongoing anniversary of the heroic contribution made by the 1976 Detachment.

The Office of the Premier is tasked with the overall coordination youth development in the Province. Youth development remains a strategic focus area in the provincial administration. This focused priority should be pursued with the active involvement of primary stakeholders, the Youth. Hence, your participation as Young Public Servants. Young people constitute a significant demographic composition of approximately 37% of the country's population. In addition, Africa is one of the youthful Continents across the World. We are therefore propelled to

focus on youth development as a key pillar of a sustainable development trajectory.

A Development perspective on Youth Development

The National Development Plan (..., 98) indicates that:"Having a relatively young population can be advantageous, provided the majority of working-age individuals are gainfully employed...The challenge is to convert this into a demographic dividend. This will only be possible if the number of working-age individuals can be employed in productive activities".

While acknowledging the centrality of social partners in advancing youth development, we should always understand that the young people themselves are motive forces of social change, as France Fanon (2004, 31) would argue that "Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it".

A history of the liberation struggle is, indeed, manifested with protracted personalities of young people who have fulfilled this heroic prophesy - young people such as Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Winnie Mandela, Solomon Mahlangu, Steve Biko, Tsietsi Mashinini, Peter Mokaba, Professor Chilizi Marawa, Simphiwe Dana, amongst others. These young people made a significant impact to humanity at their prime age. The primary actors who had facilitated popular mobilisation for a democratic change in the late 1970s and the 1980s were the youth. Of course, this proposition does not negate the critical role played by workers during this period.

Building a Youth-centred Developmental Administration

These gallant Heroes and Heroines shaped the pace and rhythm of human progress under the conditions which were not necessarily favourable to young people. Equally so, the Youth of today are confronted with key challenges which require innovation, creativity and agility as the necessary attributes to advance economic transformation. These challenges include unemployment, and place enormous constraints on providing quality education and inadequate interventions on the imperatives of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In addition to these systemic challenges, the impact of COVID-19 is posing a threat to sustainable livelihoods and economic development.

The working youth are, therefore, best-placed to provide a necessary leadership for the entire youth detachment. As Young Public Servants, you are further expected to utilise your youthfulness and strategic location in the public service and administration to serve as organic intellectuals to advance the overall objectives of the Limpopo Development Plan. Part of the immediate tasks is to ensure that you play a critical role in terms of implementing COVID-19 Risk Adjustment Plan both in the workplace and in the community. This includes compliance to various directives and safety measures on COVID-19.

Another urgent task is to develop a conscious and resolute detachment of young Public Servants for Gender Equity and Transformation.

A democratic Government cannot achieve its development agenda unless we achieve the overall imperatives of building a nonracial, non-sexist and prosperous society. A systemic attention on genderbased violence whereby women and children are the primary victims is therefore an immediate task that cannot be postponed. It is, indeed, an integral part of eradication of all forms of oppression of human beings by human beings. Public servants, especially the youthful ones, have a legal obligation to eradicate patriarchy and other regressive practices in advancing social emancipation.

Conclusion

The core of your contribution is to ensure that the provincial government plays a significant role in facilitating economic growth and development. Various research findings noted that industrialisation is a key pillar for sustainable youth empowerment.

In conclusion, the Youth are the future!
I thank you!

COMMEMORATION OF YOUTH DAY IN LIMPOPO

By Communication

ince the inception of the democratic government, this year the youth day was commemorated in a different fashion due Covid-19 pandemic.

Premier Mathabatha said the current situation made the government and the country to resort to interact with community on virtual platform.

"Nothing will ever be the same again.

However, life has to go on, we have to find new and creative ways of doing things. Young people are therefore expected to be in the forefront and to lead efforts to finding solutions to challenges imposed by Covid-19", said Mathabatha.

Mathabatha in his address also acknowledged the role played by young doctors, nurses, police, security and all young people in health services who took their time to work with government in fighting Covid-19 from the front. He further thanked young people who continue to labour in agriculture sector in order to guarantee food security for everyone during this difficult time.

Chupu has encouraged young people who have an appetite for entrepreneurship to consider starting their own business and will be supported by government.
The Limpopo
Economic
Development Agency
is implementing a
variety of programmes
to uplift small
business, particularly
those that are owned
by young people.

"Over 96% of children in this province go to school without paying a single cent, have a free school transport and free meals at schools.

The government has

opened the highest number of TVET Colleges in this province and students in these colleges are also sponsored by government so that they can be able to get their diplomas and certificates", said Mathabatha He concluded his speech by saying that young people should become advocates for action against Gender Based Violence.

r Malose Mahapa is one of the youth in the Office of the Premier - IT Unit. This is what he has to say on Youth Month.

I am young person working in Limpopo Office of the Premier and Youth in the office are afforded opportunities to be innovative, also empowered through training, conferences and workshops. As we commemorates Youth Month, we say NO to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and YES to youth empowerment.



Lastly as we are facing this coronavirus pandemic, I would like to say to youth that every disaster has a lesson for us and out of this pandemic, transformational resilience can emerge.

He concluded his

speech by saying that young people should become advocates for action against Gender Based Violence.

y name is Phophi Mudau, I'm the owner of the P Designs SA which is a clothing brand, I studied in University of Venda,I did Environmental Science. What made me to change from Environmental Science to clothing is because of lack of employment in South

Africa. I struggled for two years to find a job after my graduation.

I decided to start my own business focusing on clothing design and for the first two to three years it was difficult and not easy to tell people what I am doing.

I want to advise academics who are



struggling to find job that they should look

at what they are good in and use it to start business and create jobs for others.

For this year 2020, things are not as easy as I thought because of COVID-19 pandemic that negatively affected most of the businesses in South Africa. COVID -19 also made us to think

out of the box and change the way we do business.

Basically my clothing designs tell the true story of my culture .I am fortunate because my clothing design are also sold in Cape Town, London, Johannesburg and other cities in South Africa.

andra Kgaphola is one of the interns in the Office of the Premier - Records and Facilities M a n a g e m e n t Directorate. This is what she has to say on Youth Month.

I am youth woman who has been placed under Internship Programme in the Office of the Premier, Limpopo Province effective from 1 April 2019. The programme is a pivotal privilege to me and other interns as we acquire skills and knowledge through training programmes required by corporate world. I know very well that, in the scourge of unemployment that hit our country, getting employed is not a walk in the park, however, the little effort that our government is doing for youth in the country is appreciated. Limpopo Province is one of the rural provinces where opportunities are rare, but programmes such as Internships and Learnerships boast our theoretical academic background.

The youth in the Office are participating in different capacity building programmes such as Project Management, Records & Knowledge, and Promotion of Access to Information and Promotion of Administrative Justice Acts, Code of Conduct etc. Theory alone in all aspects of life is not adequate.

As we are celebrating Youth Month, the addresses which President Ramaphosa made in the midst of



COVID-19 showed that youth play a crucial role in our country, hence it

is important to empower them to take our country forward. Learning from the youth of 1976, it is clear that what matters in life is not the years, but life in the years. Every day counts and being a youth could be challenging, but it takes heroes and heroines of tomorrow to rise today. As a young woman in the Office of the Premier, I would like to encourage all youth to take life seriously through studies if we want to fight poverty and unemployment. I would like to stand

I would like to stand against Gender Based Violence and Femicide in the country. It is not good to abuse another h u m a n b e i n g emotionally, physically and spiritually. Rather seek counselling and speak about what bothers you with

relevant institutions. Do not resort to killings, abuse and torture. Once again, women and children deserve to be loved and guided irrespective of our differences.

One Academic and Communicator, Frans Mehale once said: "Children observe and roll with what you do more than what you say". When your children see you having abusive behaviour, they will adopt it as lifestyle.

Together we can deal with this social catastrophe of Gender Based Violence and Femicide.

HOTSPOT ERADICATION PLAN IN LIMPOPO

By: Dexter Mohale



pening of the Mines in the province posed a serious challenge in fighting the spread of Covid-19 pandemic especially in the area of Tubatse Municipality in Sekhukhune District. Tubatse is becoming a hotspot for Coronavirus in Limpopo Province.

"The number of cases in Limpopo Province has dramatically increased to 134 due to the opening of the mines, "said Mathabatha

Mathabatha said prior to the resumption of the mines operation, the government has

met with Mine Unions and had a discussion around reopening plans. During the meeting, the Unions has requested mines to quarantine everybody including mine workers who are from other provinces.

Premier Stan Mathabatha said the decision to allow mines to resume operation was not wrong is just other mines decided not to comply with covid-19 risk management act and guaranteed that all staff are screened and quarantined.

He reiterated that mines who undermines the risk management act regulations

will be closed. "The province has recently launched Covid-19 Surge Plan that will assist government to provide access of health services to about 1, 6 households in the province. These community health plan consist of professional health workers. The community health plan will not only focus on Covid-19 testing but also TB, HIV, Aids, Malaria and all other prevalence diseases ".

The plan is anchored on a community base approach which will entails targeted hotspots screening and testing. The province will be deploying 10 000 Community

Health Care Workers across the province each assigned to 160 household to do screening, 1000 professionals nurses each assigned to 10 Community Health Care Workers to do testing of different ailments and 100 General Practitioners each assigned with 10 nurses to provide treatment of different ailments that could have been detected. The province has managed to screen during the phase one household's campaign, more than 3,5million people and test more than 4000 individuals.

LIMPOPO WELCOMES 13 HEALTHCARE WORKERS FROM CUBA

By: Communication Team



Cuban Health Workers with MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba

he province of Limpopo will continue to strengthen a working relationship with Cuba.Dr Phophi Ramathuba has told the Citizenry of the Limpopo Province that the Cuban healthcare workers are not in the country to take South African Jobs but to provide support.

During the official

welcoming of the team of Cuban Health Care Workers, the MEC of Department of Health Dr Phophi Ramathuba warned them not to be swallowed by the South African system rather they stick to the Cuban way which is preventative in nature. MEC said that 92% of population depends on Government health system while 8% are using the private

sector.

"I advised health professionals not to be caught up in politics, they should follow clinicians and should not become politicians," Dr Ramathuba said.

MEC said the healthcare professionals are not immune to the virus, they must wear PPEs to protect themselves.

Cuba is known for its disaster preparedness and the team deployed in South Africa consist of experts in epidemiology, biostatistics, and public health, family physicians, health care technology engineers and experts to provide technical assistance. Some of these highly skilled health

professionals were in the front line of fighting other outbreaks in the world such as cholera in Haiti in 2010 and Ebola in West Africa in 2013."

The Cuban Healthcare professional will join the frontline staff to work together in curbing the spread of Coronavirus

SEKHUKHUNE FOOD BANK LAUNCHED IN JANE FURSE By: Communication Team

impopo Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha has launched the Sekhukhune District Food Bank on 15 May 2020, at Old Jane Furse Hospital in Sekhukhune District.

"Since the outbreak, government has embarked on measures to assist vulnerable households through the provision of food parcels to deserving beneficiaries. I am glad that the District Municipalities have already distributed hundreds of food



Premier Chupu Mathabatha and Executive Mayor Stanley Ramaila

parcels to our deserving people in the province, "says Premier Mathabatha. "Life under COVID-19 is not going to be the same, we're now in a

new normal," says
Premier Mathabatha.
Mr Chupu Mathabatha
also slammed officials
and politicians who
abuse food parcels for
their selfish ends. He

urged the media and the public to expose such a rogue element.

The Premier said Councillors are not allowed to distribute food parcels but will only assist in identifying indigent families. The eligible officials will distribute food parcels.
Speaking during the launch the Executive Mayor Stanley Ramaila said over 27 000 indigent families in the district are eligible to receive food parcels.

He called on business and individuals to contact both the District Municipality and the Department of Social Development for a list of food items they could buy.

CAPRICORN DISTRICT FIGHT HUNGER THROUGH THE FOOD BANK

By: Emmaculate Cindi

ust a day after President Cyril Ramaphosa announced social measures in response to COVID-19 Epidemic, the Capricorn District has launched a Food Bank to assist with food distribution to the most vulnerable families across the district during the Lockdown.

While most families wonder where their next meal will come from, the Capricorn District will come to their rescue by distributing food parcels from their first ever District Food Bank launched today at Peter Mokabassas tadium in Polokwane. It is one of its kind in the province with the hope that other districts will follow suit.

The bank functions almost the same as the commercial banks but in this case, donors will be depositing food that will be distributed to 118 wards in Capricorn to only people with a maximum wage of less than R3 000 per month.

Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha congratulated the Executive Mayor John Mpe for being a pioneer in launching the first District Food Bank in the province which is said to run beyond the Coronavirus Pandemic.

"This pandemic has taught us to do things differently and in a better way, we have discovered a lot of things that should have been done differently years ago, and the Food Bank is one of the things we have discovered" said Mathabatha

The district will use a standard package guidelines from the Department of Social Development. Once packaged

Executive Mayor John Mpe

with non-perishable and other nutrients, it will then be dispatched to deserving families. The package is expected to last for a minimum of four weeks depending on the size of the family.

"Each package contains basic food such as mealie-mealie,

sugar, fish and tin stuff among other things. This is to ensure that each day, families enjoys nutritional warm meal while observing the lockdown regulations" said Mpe

50 food parcels will be distributed daily to the most deserving people residing in the Capricorn district, despite their political party affiliation, race and gender and will not be politicised to gain popularity against various political parties.

This hunger relief project comes at the time when people are faced with possible unemployment once the pandemic is over, when the most vulnerable are unable to seek employment during the national lockdown while others are not being paid by their employers as the country is facing economic challenges due to COVID-19.

The Premier has pleaded with communities to report anyone who will be seen selling food parcels or distributing them according to political party affiliation to the police. This comes after there has been various reports through the media that Ward Councillors were behind unfair food parcels distribution across the country.

To show solidarity in the District's initiative, opposition of political parties such as the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and the Democratic Alliance had put their difference aside and set their eye in supporting the Food Bank while fighting the spread of COVID-19.

Boabab News

The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people

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VHAKOLOLO TRADING ENTERPRISE DONATES PPE

By: Emmaculate Cindi



he call to fight COVID-19 as all South Africans, did not fall on death ears. Dr Phophi Ramathuba, the MEC for Health in Limpopo, received a sponsorship of Personal Protective Equipment's (PPE) worth R1.2 million from a local business on behalf of Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.

The Vhakololo Trading
Enterprise represented by Ms
Gumani Madzibane handed
over a consignment of
medical equipment to the
provincial government to help
curb the spread of the Covid
19 virus. The province just
like the entire country has
experienced a shortage of
PPE which are crucial to front
liners.

The donation included surgical masks, instant hand sanitisers, gloves and respirator masks (N95). The N95 masks will only be utilised in highly infectious areas.

From Tuesday 14 April 2020, the Premier will launch a massive screening and testing programme.

The donation came at a crucial time when 310 professional nurses and 10 000 experienced HIV/AIDS, STI, TB (HAST) teams will be going door to door for screening and testing to tackle the virus across the province.

"The (HAST) cadres are

known to their communities. They have been tracing defaulted TB and HIV patients, they are no strangers to communities from which they operate" said Ramathuba Since the President pronounced the plan for massive screening and testing, there has been a general fear by citizens that criminals will use the opportunity to further their criminal activities during door to door screening. This will not be the case in the province as the 10 000 identified front liners are known to their communities.

The province will use their own case definition to test suspected patients with

COVID-19 virus. Initially the definition case for testing included travelling outside the country and being in contact with those that have travelled. The province will now use anyone who has been in contact or has been out of a specific area as a measure to test. The focus will be more in the rural areas where people cannot afford private health care. There is a concern that some city dwellers went to their homes in respective villages before the lockdown came into effect. Some could have inadvertently carried the virus to those places. The envisage rollout for testing, will flush out such cases and assist in flattening the infection curve in the country.

PREMIER MATHABATHA AND HIS EXECUTIVE MONITORS COVID -19 STATE OF DISASTER COMPLIANCE

By: Emmaculate Cindi



Shoprite Manager interacting with the Premier during COVID-19 Monitoring

he Premier of Limpopo Chupu Stanley Mathabatha accompanied by MECs was on a mission across the district of Sekhukhune to monitoring compliance. The main focus was to enforce Covid 19 compliance amongst retailers in the food industry to obey measures of the State of Disaster as outlined by Minister of Trade and Industry Ebrahim Patel.

Grocery stores, Supermarkets and Spaza shops will remain open and trading during the 21 days of National Lockdown as announced by President Cryil Ramaphosa. The executive made a stop at Dennilton Taxi Rank, Elansdoorin Shopping Complex, Leeufontein and Motetema social grant pay points. They were escorted by members of the South African Police Services and Traffic Officers.

Four Spaza shops that were not compliant with the lockdown regulations were closed because they did not provide sanitizers at the entrance for consumers; did not observe the limited of 50 people in store, which includes workers; workers were not wearing masks. All these were contraventions, which undermined hygiene and social distancing to curb the spread of the Coronavirus also known as Covid 19.

Amongst those that were cautioned were taxi drivers that did not comply with the Department of Transport policy to carry 7 passengers in a 16-seater. Those taxis found to have exceeded the required number of passengers

were instructed to reduce their cargo on the spot.

During the raid, shops that were found to be selling alcohol and tobacco were amongst the four that were closed.

The two day grants payment was one of the measures implemented by the government to practice social distancing of one meter amongst the elderly and disabled.

Across the district, it was clear that the President's call to respect and adhere to

the National Lockdown did not fall on death ears. The streets were empty and those that came out to see what has the Premier and his executive found were shouting social distancing.

It was evident with young children's remarks that the coronavirus is real and people need not leave their houses unless it is of importance like going to consult health professionals and buying only essential goods from stores that are permitted to operate during the lockdown

LIMPOPO PROVINCE REACHES AND EXCEEDS THE 1000 MARK FOR COVID-19 CASES- 5 NEW DEATHS RECORDED

By: Thilivhali Muavha and Neil Shikwambana

Limpopo Province has reached and exceeded the thousand mark on cases of COVID-19. As of today, the province is at 1018 cumulative cases. Currently, Capricorn and Waterburg are leading with 229 cumulative cases and highest number of recoveries.

Waterberg has recorded 21 cases in the past 24hours while Capricorn at 16. While the numbers grow, we are also encouraged by the number of recoveries which are at0 above 50 percent. Of the total numbee of infections, 520 have recovered," added MEC Ramathuba.

Limpopo's department of health has also registered 5 more COVID 19 related deaths in the past week

The department is also saddened to confirm that 5 more deaths which happened on different days in the past week as announced by the minister are COVID 19 related bringing the total of deaths to 10.

All these deaths were diagnosed posthumously since all of them died less than 12hours upon arrival in our different facilities both public and private across the province, All

these cases had comorbidities and the reasons for visiting our emergency centers were as a results of complications due to their chronic known ailments. The department conveys its deepest condolences to their families.

As the number of cases rapidly surges, Health MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba has expressed concern over the latest workplace cluster outbreak involving SANDF members deployed in Lephalale. At least 38 cases have been recorded in the camp within the last 24 hours and are all under

isolation being monitored. According to the reports, the infected soilders are from Cape Town who came to the Province last week as part of the battalion that was deployed to monitor lockdown compliance.

"we have reported the matter to the minister of health and head of Military health services and through their guidance we are confident that we will work together to make sure we contain the spread" said MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba.

" We call for calm amongst the people of Lephalale and reiterate our message that the only way we can protect ourselves from getting infected is not by discrimination or blaming others but by handwashing with water and soap, practicing social distance and wearing of mask. This is the time where self discipline is required. All those with comorbidities must stay at home. Those who are vulnerable please self quarantine at home. Protect yourself from getting infected cause you will not survive this virus" continued MEC Ramathuba

PROVINCE HAIL VBS ARRESTS

By: Kenny Mathivha



impopo Provincial Government has noted the recent arrests of those implicated in the much talked about VBS saga by the Hawks earlier yesterday.
"In 2018 when I released forensic audit results. I said the law

must take its course, and this are some of the results ", said Premier Mathabatha. The Premier had earlier in 2018 appointed a forensic audit led by the Department of Treasury to look into several millions of rand

deposits by
Municipalities into the
VBS bank. Indeed the
report found wide
plundering and illegal
investments in the VBS
Bank.

"Through the recommendations of that report, we took necessary remedial

actions, several punitive actions were meted against municipal employees and politicians ,and we still believe the law enforcement agencies should follow up and make more arrests" said Chupu.
"I do hope the poorest

of the poor, the pensioners and investors who lost several millions in the bank start to see justice being done", he concluded



FOURTH PSL TEAM IN LIMPOPO

By: Kenny Mathivha



remier Chupu Mathabatha has learnt with joy the conclusion of deal to have a Fourth Premier Soccer League (PSL) Team in Limpopo.

Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila (TTM) owners announced earlier this week the conclusion of Bidvest Wits status buying and approval.
"We are indeed excited that TTM will now join Black Leopards, Baroka and Polokwane City in the top flight Premier Soccer League(PSL), and this comes with lots of economic spin offs for

our people in the

province", says

Mathabatha.

subsequent name

change pending PSL

This fourth team will join Black Leopards in the Vhembe District and Thohoyandou Stadium, will be one of the busiest stadiums come next football season.

Polokwane City and Baroka remain in the Capricorn District, both utilizing the world class Peter Mokaba Stadium as their home base. The multimillion purchase of a 100 years old Bidvest Wits comes in the back foot of the purchase of Glad Africa TTM status to another businessman in the province. "We are glad that Limpopo is basically reclaiming its status as the home of football legends. Limpopo has over years contributed

and produced big soccer players from Lesley Manyathela, to Trott Moloto, Mulomowandau Mathoho and many others who mesmerized on the soccer turf ",said Mathabatha.